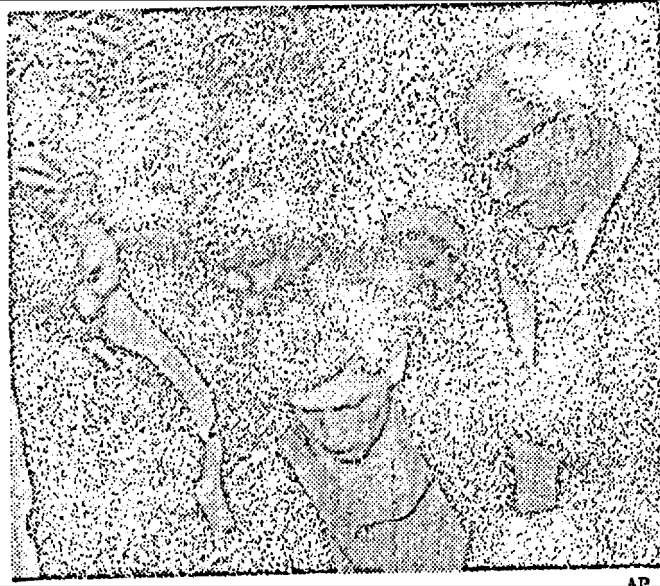


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Russian Identified As Agent Who Had U-2 Pilot Released



Mystery Soviet agent, at right, grasps Vladimir Tkachenko

BY JOHN O. KOEHLER

New York, Oct. 6 (AP)—The Embassy in London. Scotland Yard was alerted and the departure was stopped at the airport.
A young Soviet scientist in London was identified today as the top secret police agent who handled the release of Francis Gary Powers, an American U-2 pilot.

"I positively identify the man as Ivan Alexandrovitch Schischkin with whom I negotiated the exchange of Powers and Colonel Abel," James B. Donovan, a New York attorney, said.

Donovan revealed that United States intelligence officials believe Schischkin to be the head of operations in Western Europe for KGB, the Soviet secret police. He guessed that Schischkin's rank was either major general or perhaps even lieutenant general.

"They are obviously using him on their top cases," Donovan said.

Schischkin's name cropped up in London September 16 when British police pulled Dr. Vladimir Tkachenko off a Moscow-bound Soviet airliner, charging the physicist had been drugged and kidnaped.

Tkachenko, who had been studying in Britain, was observed being forced into a car identified as belonging to the Soviet

Three days later, British authorities released Tkachenko and he was flown to Moscow.

A Soviet official, identified as Ivan A. Schischkin, an envoy, was said to have arranged the departure. Speculation had it that he was the same man involved in the exchange of Powers for Col. Rudolf Abel, convicted in the United States as a Soviet spy. His last name was spelled differently, however.

This reporter identified Schischkin from a photograph showing two Soviet officials dragging Tkachenko back to the Soviet Embassy.

Common Knowledge

We had met many times in West and East Berlin in 1962 and 1963, where Schischkin said he was an assistant press attache at the Soviet Embassy. His business card identified him as a second secretary. It was common knowledge, however, that he was the man who handled the Powers-Abel exchange for the Soviets.

To establish the identity beyond doubt, the photograph was shown to Donovan, who pointed to Schischkin without hesitation.

Donovan negotiated with Schischkin in East Berlin for more than a week in February, 1962. The lawyer was the court-appointed attorney for Abel.

Donovan said the fact that Schischkin, who speaks flawless English, German and Swedish besides his native Russian, was involved indicated strongly that the British suspicion of Tkachenko's kidnaping was justified all along.